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the case in most colleges, a very small percentage only of the students of science are likely ever to have the opportunity to devote their lives to research. T.

**A Guide in Vegetable Physiology.** — Professor Arthur of Purdue University has issued in pamphlet form an outline for thirty-five laboratory exercises in vegetable physiology,<sup>1</sup> which are intended to guide the student in manipulation while avoiding the provision of information as to the purpose of the experiments or the deductions to be drawn from them.

**Digestion of the Albumen of the Date.** — M. Leclerc du Sablon, in the *Revue Générale de Botanique* for Nov. 15, 1897, publishes a paper on the digestion of the "albumen" of the date, in which it is shown that not only is this albumen incapable of digesting itself, but that the diastases secreted by the cotyledon, which attack the cellulose, do not penetrate into the albumen, their action appearing only in the region of contact between the cotyledon and the albumen, only the enzyme which leads to the production of fatty acid passing from the cotyledon into the albumen, where it begins the digestion of the fatty reserves.

**Experiments with Etiolated Leaves.** — In a paper published in No. 107 of the *Revue Générale de Botanique*, Palladine shows that when etiolated leaves free from carbohydrates are placed on the surface of various solutions, saccharose, raffinose, glucose, fructose, maltose, glycerine, galactose, lactose, and dextrine favor the formation in them of chlorophyll, while inulin and tyrosin produce no effect, and mannite, dulcite, asparagine, alcohol, and some other substances either retard or completely prevent the formation of the pigment.

**Life History of Ranunculus.** — To the *Botanical Gazette* for February, Prof. John M. Coulter contributes an addition to the life history of *Ranunculus*, embodying the results of the study of a number of research students at the University of Chicago. The results appear to justify the conclusion that while it is comparatively easy to obtain a definite sequence in the development of structures when the facts are few, definite sequences seem to disappear as facts multiply; a conclusion which may be paralleled in nearly or quite all

<sup>1</sup> J. C. Arthur, *Laboratory Exercises in Vegetable Physiology*. Lafayette, Ind., 1897. Kimmell & Herbert.